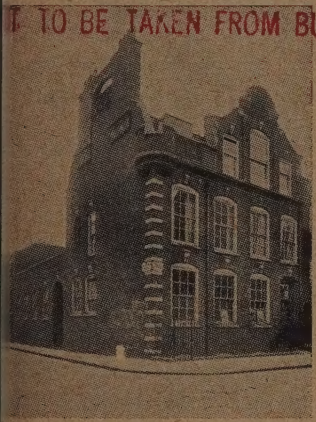
No. 679 Twopence May, 1960

THE LIBERAL ARIAN

A MAGAZINE FOR FREE CHRISTIANS

ARR KING SCHOOL
T TO BE TAKEN FROM BUILDING



ONDON DOMESTIC MISSIONS

By Walter M. Long

n the early thirties of last cen-
y, the Unitarians of London, be-
; inspired by the story of Dr.
seph Tuckerman's "Ministry at
rge" among the poor of Boston,
ssachusetts, resolved to embark
a similar work in the city of
ndon. Under the Secretaryship
the Rev. W. J. Fox — who also
ame a well-known radical Mem-
of Parliament—the British and
reign Unitarian Society actually
ablished such a Mission in 1832
a disused weaver's shed in Spital-
ids. With a growing sense of the
portance of the work and also
th a desire to foster an un-
tarian basis free from propa-
ndist activities of the B. & F.U.A.,
e London Domestic Mission Society was formed on January 14th 1835. Its object was "the improvement of the moral and religious character of the poor, and the amelioration of their conditions, especially by employing missionaries to visit them at their homes and assemble them . . . for the purpose of worship and instruction." Thus we have to our credit the historic fact that Unitarians were first in the field for organised social and religious work among the poor of London. It is the oldest society for such work, and whilst the London City Missions, the Salvation Army and the Church Army have large and flourishing institutions and organisations to-day, the work of our society has been of a modest, but nevertheless beneficent character. The very success of their work ought to be a challenge to us for patient continuance in well-doing. The truly Christian character of the work during the past one hundred and twenty-five years has been of inestimable value to countless numbers of men and women and children who have come within its influence either at Dingley Place, Rhyl Street or Bell Street Mission. Many of the social agencies initiated by the society have now been adopted and developed by the Local Authorities and the State.

The lack of adequate financial support resulted in the decision of the Committee to close first Dingley Place and then Rhyl Street Mission in the early post-war years, and to concentrate on the Bell Street area of St. Marylebone where the premises were more suitable. It is here that the Rev. Walter M. Long has been missionary for the past

37 years—over half the period in which the Mission has functioned since 1887. His social and religious activities cover a wide field in the district where he has also served on the Borough Council since 1931. This has enabled him to co-ordinate the work in a unique manner.

Since 1927 the Mission has successfully maintained Bruce Cottage, Aldwick, Bognor Regis, as a holiday and convalescent home, and this is available for wider use in the "off holiday periods."

To-day the disgusting and distressing conditions in the slum areas around the Mission have almost been removed, and the Welfare State has completely changed the conditions of the poor so that brutual poverty no longer exists. The human problems and needs confronting the overcrowded families of the district still provide a wide field for personal service of a redemptive character. By a preamble to the existing rules adopted at the A.G.M. in 1950 the society clearly formulated its policy for the present times.

"The L.D.M.S. was founded by Unitarians in 1835 in order to realise the ideals of the Good Samaritan. It is the oldest Society in London for social and religious work amongst the less fortunate members of the community. The Mission, working on unsectarian lines, has established itself as a centre of brightness and joy in some of the drabber streets. Aided by the friendship and religious influence of its missionaries, and by means of healthy recreations, physical and mental education and spiritual development, it offers to all in need a larger home founded on Christian fellowship."

Our free religious faith should give a greater incentive than orthodoxy does to a labour of love in an atmosphere of religious belief, shorn of all sectarian exclusiveness, where human problems may be solved and a corner of the world healed of its woes and sorrows.

As the present income is total inadequate, such work cannot lon be continued unless some way found to increase the financial sup port. If this is forthcoming, it ma be one day the young people of o churches will discover a new field social service in and through th Mission which could give great sati faction and joy to all concerned.

"SETTLEMENTS AND ETIQUETTE"

AN A.B.C. GUID

1/- each from Essex Ha

Having been asked to write brief review of this "Guide," ju issued for the use of all congreg tions and ministers on the roll the General Assembly, I do so wi the knowledge that such inform tion, collected together in o publication, has been lacking f too long. I doubt whether mar Church Officers could put the hands readily on a copy of th previous issue of 1947.

The reasonable eventualities see to have been provided for and th arrangement in A.B.C. form was happy thought.

We are indebted to the Re Maurice Bonner for the initial wo involved which has meant co siderable preparation and revision

I should like to commend th introduction as it points out th importance of right relationshi between minister and congregati from the commencement of th settlement until its terminatio Unnecessary differences are know to have occurred at times, d largely to ignorance of the corre procedure.

Church Officers and ministers, necessity, come and go but th little pamphlet can be the means maintaining a high standard efficiency, consideration and cou tesy among their successors.

H. B. Moore.

ITARIAN STALWARTS

Mr. Fred G. Mason

r. Fred G. Mason, Hon. Secre- of the Manchester Domestic sion Society, generally known to business associates as "George," attended the Renshaw Street sion, Hulme, as a boy over fifty rs ago, in the year 1908 to be ect, and was actively connected n the Mission Boy Scouts Group n 1912 to 1952. He has acted as . Secretary of the Renshaw et Mission Committee since 1937 was appointed Hon. Secretary the Manchester Domestic Mis- Society in 1944, of which Society s also a Trustee. The Manches- City League of Help have availed mselves of his services as an In- igator since 1937 and his work he neighbourhood of the Mission in the Sunday School has been tly appreciated for many years. is the immediate Past President he Manchester District Associa- of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches after having held the office of President for two years, and has been twice President of the Manchester Sunday School Association. Mr. Mason also serves on the Committee of the Northern Sunday School Federation, and has served on the Management Committee of the Hucklow Unitarian Holiday Centre. He is a very familiar figure in the pulpits of churches in the Manchester area, as he is an active member of the Manchester District Union of Unitarian Lay Preachers, and his work in this field alone would entitle him to the title of "Stalwart."

All this is not the whole of his life as he has been engaged in the city since boyhood (apart from a period in the Army during the First World War, when he was wounded) with a well-known firm of city textile merchants, with whom he is a Departmental Manager.

It would not be fair to conclude without mentioning the great amount of work done in the background (as is the case with all men engaged in public work of all kinds) by his quiet, unassuming and yet very active wife.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

KITTEN TROUBLE

One day Lisbeth found a kitten as she and Raymond were walking home from school. They heard its cry and she discovered it entangled in a wire-netting fence. She held it up and looked at it. It was jet black with two small white spots.

"Isn't she pretty?" asked Lisbeth.

"How do you know it's a she?" said Raymond.

"Well, it's got to be one or the other, hasn't it?" Raymond had to agree.

"Put it down and let's go," he suggested.

"But we can't just leave it," said Lisbeth.

"Why not? It probably lives round here."

Lisbeth reluctantly put it down, gave a half-hearted "shoo" and walked away. Twenty yards later they discovered it at their heels. They went back and put it over the fence. When they reached home, they were knocking on the door as the kitten walked in at the gate.

Inside Lisbeth sat it on her lap.

"What shall we do, mum?" she asked.

"I think you'd better take it back," mum advised, "someone may be looking for it."

Lisbeth said she couldn't; but Raymond said *he* could and went off cheerfully with the kitten tucked into his jacket.

But nobody recognised it; so Raymond decided on firmness. He put the kitten once more over the fence and raced off home. When he got there, of course, there was no kitten. Lisbeth wept but mum said it was really for the best. Raymond went out into the back garden and lay down until tea-time. When he awoke, there was the kitten on the grass watching him. Mum said again that it ought to go back; but Raymond's views had changed. So mum said, "Well keep it for a while, then, and watch for advertisements—and we'll advertise. Then, if nothing happens . . . !"

That was several weeks ago. Nobody has claimed and Lisbeth, Raymond and the kitten seem very happy together.

ONE FAR FROM ANOTHER

By Bruce Findlow

When you read this, for all of us another General Assembly will be over, and for some it will seem a long year to the next one. For Scottish Unitarians there are our own meetings to come this month so we can, at the beginning of May, look back to London and forward to Garth.

Tnese occasions which bring us to gether from widely separated place always remind me of a text i Nehemiah in the account of the re building of the walls of Jerusalem "The work is great and large, an we are separated upon the wall, on far from another. In what plac therefore ye hear the sound of th trumpet resort ye thither unto us our God shall fight for us."

We Unitarians have no Nehemia to call to us like that. Perhaps o traditions mean that we cannot an should not have an inspiring i dividual leader, a bisnop-like ngur But it we really are a combined for of churches rather than a collectic or churches each pulling its ow way, then tnese joint occasio should speak to us as Nenemia spoke to his workmen on tne wa The meetings should generate son message akin to his.

We need to be reminded oft that our work is great and larg tnat we have a tremendous work construction (not destruction) carry through. We need to reminded that we are not each goi it alone. It often seems like th when we are separated one far fr another and we quickly forget th about three hundred oth Unitarian churches are worki with us. We need more instructi about working together to rest the weak places in our combin work. Perhaps most of all we ne to recover the conviction that great work is not merely human b divine.

THE BOER WAR

What was the Unitarian attitu to this War? Mr. Ian Sellars doing research into the subject a would be grateful for informat which may be sent via the Rev. B Short, 23, Cheltenham Aven Liverpool, 17.

The Rev. Peter B. Godfrey wel-
omes Mr. Paul Robeson to Man-
ester, on behalf of his many
dmirers amongst Manchester
nitarians and especially those
om Swinton and Urmston who
rmed a party to hear him sing.
uring the interview Mr. Robeson
xpressed keen interest in Uni-
arianism and said that he is an
onorary member of Los Angeles
nitarian Church.

"I feel close to the members of
our church," said Mr. Robeson,
especially in their efforts to pre-
erve and extend peace and friend-
hip everywhere. I send my warmest
reetings to all your readers."

UNITARIANS IN THE NEWS

On Sunday, March 20th, Mr. P. Wood, President of the Padiham School, presented to Mr H. Houlgrave, a clock on behalf of the scholars and adult members. Mr. Houlgrave is retiring after thirty-six years as School Secretary.

Mr. J. Woodhouse, a former member of Unity Church, Sheffield, has been appointed Lighting Engineer for Sheffield, his native city. Mr. Woodhouse has in recent years worshipped and worked in Derby.

The Pastoral oversight of Pendleton by the Rev. W. Hill-Wareing, is "still on the drawing board," and has not begun yet, as implied by the February *Unitarian*.

The Rev. D. C. Doel, M.A., has accepted a call to Minister at Hindley.

The Rev. Leonard Mason is leaving Leicester to become Minister at Montreal, Canada.

"Have you heard, my dear, they've had the former Editor of the 'Unitarian' to straighten out the G.A. for a year and now they are sending him to Chesterfield to see what he can do with the spire."

NEWS AND VIEWS

HOME CHURCHES

After thirteen unsuccessful attempts (in every Drama Festival except the first) SWINTON won the 1960 U.Y.P.L. Drama Festival at BANK STREET, Bolton, on March 26th. SWANSEA was second and MILL STREET, Liverpool (holders of the shield for the past two years) was third. Seven U.Y.P.L. branches had entered the Festival.

The Annual Women's League Service at BROOKFIELD CHURCH, Manchester, was conducted by Mrs. F. Cottier, B.A.

Two lectures on "Church Publicity" were given by Mr. W. Binns Hargreaves, to the PLATT Chapel monthly Women's Meeting in February and March and prompted prolonged discussion. They were "illustrated" by suitable publicity supplied by the Rev. Eric Shirvell Price, of Bolton.

The U.Y.P.L. welcomed six new branches in March—SOUTH SHIELDS, PLATT, URMSTON, LYDGATE, SWANSEA and BEDFIELD. A branch is being formed at WAVERLEY ROAD, Birmingham. A "work week-end" at KINVER saw the demolition of the old hut, it will be rebuilt as a kitchen area. The "old" Refugee Year target of £300 was reached in February; the new target is £500.

The 110th Annual Meetings of the Northern Sunday School Federation were held at GREAT HUCKLOW on Good Friday. Preacher at the morning service was the Rev. J. Kier Murren. Speakers at the evening meeting were the Rev. E. B. Short, Mr. Martin West and Mr. Alex Rodgers.

The Rev. A. W Vallance, then President of the G.A., spoke at the annual meetings of the Midland Union in March.

Two artists and an achitect are working upon a scheme suggested by Mr. Robert Davies (the architect) to make the Unitarian tent at the Eisteddfod in Cardiff more attractive than ever.

The final rally week-end of the BOLTON Forward Movement was held on April 9th and 10th. Special participants were the Revs. A. W. Vallance, John Kielty and W. Waddington. The theme of the meetings

UNITARIAN HOLIDAY PARTIES

FLORENCE/RAPALLO by air (June 23rd—July 6th).

AUSTRIA / YUGOSLAVIA / RHINELAND (August 8th—21st).

NORDFJORD / BERGEN / OSLO (August 18th—September 1st).

Reduced party fares. Lone travellers welcome. Nothing strenuous.

WRITE:

The Rev. G. Parkinson,
10a, Westbourne Grove,
Scarborough.

s "Unitarians Quest for the Good
e."

Sunday School scholars at Moss-
r raised six guineas for W.R.Y.
selling bundles of firewood.

A collection in the school at
WCHURCH raised £11 10s. 6. in
arch.

Inspector Edward Thomas spoke
Manchester Unitarian Society in
arch on "The Work of the
odern Police."

Retiring collections of almost £2
om two services at ALTRINCHAM in
bruary were gratefully received
the Salvation Army.

The Rev. G. Randall Jones has
signed, upon medical advice, as
cretary and District Minister of
e Western Union. He has been
cretary for 16 years and District
inister for 12.

Church activities at SCARBOROUGH
ve increased considerably during
e past year. Sunday attendance
s practically doubled. The minis-
the Rev. G. W. Parkinson, has
oken to twenty-two local organisa-
ons during the past year. Several
w members were welcomed at a
dication service in March. Easter
eek-end saw a "get-together" of
rkinson tourers.

With the approval of the majority
the Church Committee at
ACKNEY, New Gravel Pit Church,
weekly football competition has
en arranged to help the Church
estoration Fund. The weekly prize
£2.

KIDDERMINSTER'S dissenters pro-
bly stem from the removal of
ichard Baxter to London in 1660
nd it has been suggested that the
rcentenary be celebrated by reno-
ating the 1707 edition of "Baxter's
omplete Works," that is in the
hurch's possession.

The SPEKE Building Fund has
assed the £2,900 mark—but money
coming in more slowly and it is
ne of the conditions of the con-
act for the purchase of the site
om the Corporation that building

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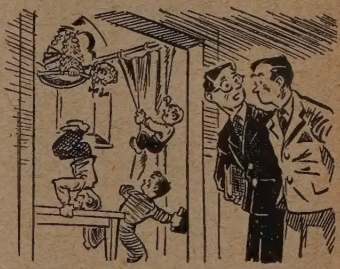


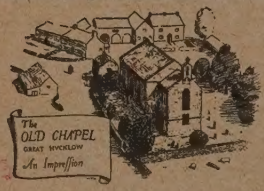
"We shall have to tell them that the Crother Report is not for Sunday Schools."

should start by March, 1961.

The target of £500 set for the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland for W.R.Y. has been exceeded. The new target is £750. All Souls' Church, BELFAST, has had its initial target doubled through the generosity of Dr. Isobel Calwell, who, by a personal donation of £100 has now set the congregation a new target of £300.

To mark the start of pastoral oversight at HORWICH by the Rev. E. S. Price, the Church's Senior Y.P.L. branch has renamed its "houses" Price and Long. The newly formed Drama Group presented a Passion Play as part of the Easter Sunday Service.

UPPER CHAPEL, Sheffield, celebrates its tercentenary this year. At the beginning of the year the Sheffield Religious Fellowship Association was formed. It will meet monthly throughout the winter on Sunday evenings. The object of the Association is "to afford opportunity for our members, and for those of other faiths or of none, to discuss together the deep things of life, and to share their experiences and religious problems."



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The weekly organ of the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches
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THE UNITARIAN, published by Manchester District Association of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. Annual subscription 4/-. Monthly orders, 50 copies 7/6, 100 copies 10/6 plus postage *Business Manager:* G. HARRISON, 2, Walwyn Close, Stretford, M/Cr. *Editor:* Rev. PETER B. GODFREY, 25, Park Avenue, Swinton, Manchester.

Printed by Nuneaton Newspapers, Bond Gate, Nuneaton